

FIRE STATION NO. 14
3401 South Central Avenue
CHC-2021-6169-HCM
ENV-2021-6170-CE

FINDINGS

Fire Station No. 14 “exemplifies significant contributions to the broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, state, city or community” for its association with the desegregation of the Los Angeles Fire Department.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Fire Station No. 14 “exemplifies significant contributions to the broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, state, city or community” for its association with the desegregation of the Los Angeles Fire Department. While initially considered a source of pride, the establishment of Fire Station No. 14 soon highlighted the limitations of employment and advancement opportunities for Black firemen within the LAFD. With the Black population of Los Angeles growing, but no new all-Black engine companies being formed, the subject property became a focus for civil rights activists seeking racial equality in municipal employment. The campaign by the NAACP to expose racial discrimination within the LAFD ultimately led to the desegregation of the department, while reinvigorating the organization, which launched other campaigns with new leadership and increased membership. As one of two segregated fire stations at the core of this campaign, the subject property stands as a testament to the perseverance of civil rights activists who fought for equal access to LAFD career opportunities.

Despite some alterations, the subject property retains a high level of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to convey its significance.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (“CEQA”) FINDINGS

State of California CEQA Guidelines, Article 19, Section 15308, Class 8 “*consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment.*”

State of California CEQA Guidelines Article 19, Section 15331, Class 31 “*consists of projects limited to maintenance, repair, stabilization, rehabilitation, restoration, preservation, conservation or reconstruction of historical resources in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic buildings.*”

The designation of Fire Station No. 14 as an Historic-Cultural Monument in accordance with Chapter 9, Article 1, of the City of Los Angeles Administrative Code (“LAAC”) will ensure that future construction activities involving the subject property are regulated in accordance with Section 22.171.14 of the LAAC. The purpose of the designation is to prevent significant impacts to a Historic-Cultural Monument through the application of the standards set forth in the LAAC.

Given that the subject property is already listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources, the pending designation will lead to a higher level of review and protection of the historic significance and integrity of the subject property that could otherwise be lost through incompatible alterations, new construction, or demolition, particularly to the interiors of the buildings. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation are expressly incorporated into the LAAC and provide standards concerning the historically appropriate construction activities which will ensure the continued preservation of the subject property.

The City of Los Angeles has determined based on the whole of the administrative record, that substantial evidence supports that the Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section Article 19, Section 15308, Class 8 and Class 31, and none of the exceptions to a categorical exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 applies. The project was found to be exempt based on the following:

The use of Categorical Exemption Class 8 in connection with the proposed designation is consistent with the goals of maintaining, restoring, enhancing, and protecting the environment through the imposition of regulations designed to prevent the degradation of Historic-Cultural Monuments.

The use of Categorical Exemption Class 31 in connection with the proposed designation is consistent with the goals relating to the preservation, rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction of historic buildings and sites in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

Categorical Exemption ENV-2021-6170-CE was prepared on September 13, 2021.

BACKGROUND

On July 21, 2021, the Director of Planning determined that the application for the proposed designation of the subject property as an Historic-Cultural Monument was complete. On August 19, 2021, the Cultural Heritage Commission voted to take the subject property under consideration. On September 9, 2021, a subcommittee of the Commission consisting of Commissioners Kanner and Kennard conducted a site inspection of the property, accompanied by staff from the Office of Historic Resources.

The original expiration date of November 2, 2021 is tolled, and a revised date will be determined pursuant to *the Mayor's March 21, 2020 Public Order Under City of Los Angeles Emergency Authority re: Tolling of Deadlines Prescribed in the Municipal Code* and *April 17, 2020 Public Order Under City of Los Angeles Emergency Authority re: Tolling HCIDLA Deadlines and Revising Expiration of Emergency Orders*. The time to act on this item has been tolled for the duration of the local emergency period. Please note that other State law provisions may also apply.